

# Academy for Career Connections



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## Why AC<sup>2</sup>?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) plays a crucial role in empowering Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, Blind, Low Vision, and Deafblind students by providing them with the knowledge and hands-on experiences necessary to succeed in a competitive workforce. CTE programs are uniquely positioned to offer tailored instruction and adaptive technologies, ensuring that all students, regardless of their sensory abilities, can pursue meaningful careers and achieve their full potential.

# WHAT IS ACADEMY FOR CAREER CONNECTIONS?

West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind's (WVSDB) Academy for Career Connections (AC<sup>2</sup>) programs empower students to explore potential careers in various hands-on, technical training programs. These programs not only teach students real-world knowledge and skills, but also provide opportunities for industry-recognized credentials and meaningful work-based learning experiences. Students gain hands-on experience to better understand and prepare for high-demand, real-world jobs.

## CTE PATHWAY FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO CAREER

Students can begin exploring CTE programs in middle school. Taking these courses in middle and high school can help students decide what direction to take after graduation. CTE classes will better prepare students to be both college and career ready.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

- ▶ Explore CTE programs through Discover Your Future initiative

### GRADUATION

- ▶ Start your career or earn additional certifications

### HIGH SCHOOL

- ▶ Explore your interests by enrolling in a CTE Academy
- ▶ Earn licenses and credentials
- ▶ Earn college credit

### CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

- ▶ Obtain a 1-year certification through an Advanced Career Education (ACE) program
- ▶ Complete your associate's degree at a community college
- ▶ Earn your bachelor's or master's degree at a university

### *Discover Your Future*

The Discover Your Future course offered at The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind is a transformative course designed to provide middle school-aged students with invaluable career exploration opportunities. By exposing students to different industries and professions early on, they can develop a clearer understanding of their interests and strengths. This early exposure is crucial as it helps students make more informed decisions about their high school courses and extracurricular activities, aligning their education with their career goals. Discover Your Future equips middle school students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate their educational journey more effectively, setting a strong foundation for their future success.



## **HIGH SCHOOL**

### *Simulated Workplace and Work-Based Experiences*

Simulated Workplace (SW) is an engaging learning environment that provides students with authentic workplace experiences and the skills they need to be successful in their careers and higher education. Simulated Workplace implements workplace protocols in the classroom that align with West Virginia workforce requirements.

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind offer vital on-campus and off-campus work-based experiences, facilitated in collaboration with the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and local businesses in Romney, WV. These experiences are crucial as they provide students with practical, hands-on learning opportunities that complement their academic coursework.

*“Working at a local coffee shop as part of WVSDB’s CTE program was a game-changer for me.”*

*– Recent WVSDB Graduate*





## Classroom 2 Career

Classroom 2 Career builds work-based learning opportunities for West Virginia students. Students learn first-hand how to succeed in the workplace through various work-based learning options including community service projects, student teaching, internships, apprenticeships and more



## WORK-BASED LEARNING TRACKS

### CAREER SIMULATION

**Examples:**

- › Classroom Activity
- › Project-Based Learning

### CAREER LEARNING

**Examples:**

- › Economic Projects Impacting Communities (EPIC)
- › Community Service Project
- › School-Based Enterprise

### CAREER PREPARATION

**Examples:**

- › Classroom Observation & Student Teaching
- › Career and Work Skills Training (CWST)
- › Entrepreneurship

### CAREER EXPERIENCE

**Examples:**

- › Internship
- › Pre-apprenticeship
- › Apprenticeship
- › On-the-Job Training

**Resources**

**Classroom 2 Career Navigator ([wvclassroom2career.com](http://wvclassroom2career.com))**

A website that highlights college and career options for West Virginia students. Counselors, students, and families can access useful information about colleges, military, entrepreneurship, work-based learning and other resources to help guide decisions and career options beyond high school.

## COLLEGE OPTIONS

<b>TECHNICAL SCHOOL</b>	<b>1</b> YEAR	<b>COMMUNITY COLLEGE</b>	<b>2</b> YEARS	<b>COLLEGES &amp; UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>4</b> YEARS
<p>Advanced Career Education (ACE) offers credentials, certifications, and licenses in growing industries across the state to make students more valuable in today's job market. The ACE Advantage program provides low-cost or tuition-free training options in West Virginia's fastest growing industries.</p>	<p>Nine community and technical colleges across the Mountain State represent the West Virginia Community and Technical College System. No matter the location, a hands-on educational experience is close to home – and, thanks to West Virginia Invests, chances are many students can get their credential for free!</p>	<p>West Virginia's four-year public higher education system includes 12 campuses that offer vast opportunities for a high-quality education at an affordable cost. Visit <a href="http://collegeforwv.com">collegeforwv.com</a> to learn more about state scholarships and grants that can open doors of opportunity.</p>			

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind is excited to announce a new partnership between The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind and Eastern Community and Technical College, dedicated to serving our Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Low Vision, and Deafblind students. Through this collaboration, WVSDB students will have the opportunity to participate in dual credit courses, gaining college-level experience while still in high school. Additionally, they will receive continued support after graduation, ensuring a smooth transition to higher education and beyond.

## CAREER

The WVSDB offers five CTE career academies that provide opportunities for students to explore various potential careers in a wide range of fields and industries. The academy career clusters help students discover their passions and empower them to choose a successful pathway after graduation.

Within each academy cluster, students can choose a program of study to focus on. These programs enhance the high school experience and expand opportunities for students by allowing them to explore various careers within a particular field.



**AC<sup>2</sup> allows students to find their passions**



**AC<sup>2</sup> enhances the high school experience**



**AC<sup>2</sup> prepares students for the real world**



# BUILDING MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

## WHAT IS IT?

*Building Maintenance and Operations is a comprehensive, hands-on program encompassing multiple disciplines and trades involved in residential and commercial construction.*

Students will learn aspects from the following: hand tools, power tools, masonry, welding, carpentry, painting, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical. The WVSDB is an accredited training and education facility recognized by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). Students can obtain various nationally recognized industry credentials such as OSHA 10, Introduction to Hand Tools, Introduction to Power Tools, Construction Math, Basic Safety, Construction Drawings, Basic Communication, Material Handling, Introduction to HVAC, and Basic Stair Layout. Throughout the program, students construct many different products within the shop and perform work on the WVSDB campus. In addition, students use their skills in the community and build numerous projects for multiple nonprofit organizations.

## SKILL SETS

- ▶ Identify ways to create and maintain a safe work environment
- ▶ Demonstrate proper use of hand tools (hammer, chisel, cat's paw, tape measure, speed square, and more)
- ▶ Exhibit an understanding of construction blueprints
- ▶ Demonstrate proper use of power tools (circular saw, miter saw, pneumatic nail guns, table saw, jig saw, planer, and more)
- ▶ Demonstrate proper installation of basic electrical components
- ▶ Demonstrate an understanding of basic welding techniques
- ▶ Demonstrate proper installation of basic plumbing components
- ▶ Exhibit an understanding of basic HVAC systems
- ▶ Perform multiple duties of a carpenter (building floor systems, wall systems, installing sheathing, shingle installation, and more)





# PERSONAL CAREER READINESS

## WHAT IS IT?

*The Personal Career Readiness Academy is dedicated to preparing students for professional success with a focus on personalized pathways tailored to individual career goals.*

This program covers essential skills such as resume writing, interview techniques, workplace etiquette, and professional communication. This academy empowers students to confidently transition from academics to the professional world, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

## KEY FEATURES

- ▶ **Personalized Pathways:** Each student receives a customized plan that aligns with their unique career aspirations, ensuring they acquire the skills and experiences most relevant to their goals.
- ▶ **Dual Credit Opportunities:** In partnership with Eastern Community and Technical College, students can earn dual credits, gaining advanced standing and a head-start on their college education.
- ▶ **College Prep:** Our collaboration with Eastern Community and Technical College also provides robust college preparatory courses, equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed for higher education success.
- ▶ **Pursue Grow Your Own:** “Grow Your Own” is a program designed for students aspiring to become future educators in West Virginia. This program offers opportunities for high school students to embark on their journey into the teaching profession by earning credits and gaining classroom teaching experience before they graduate.



# CULINARY & HOSPITALITY

## WHAT IS IT?

*Embark on a culinary journey with the WVSDB ProStart class where aspiring chefs and hospitality professionals hone their skills in a dynamic learning environment.*

Designed to provide hands-on experience and industry-relevant knowledge, this program equips students with the essential tools to excel in culinary arts and restaurant management. From mastering knife techniques to understanding menu planning, an invaluable opportunity to gain real-world experience by working in our on-site cafe, students will learn aspects of the hospitality industry under the guidance of an experienced instructor.

## SKILL SETS

- ▶ Maintain basic principles of nationally recognized sanitation protocols (ServSafe Food Handler)
- ▶ Exhibit understanding of professional behavior, appearance, and job interview skills
- ▶ Identify and distinguish safe knife usage and basic cuts
- ▶ Perform basic duties of a waiter. (e.g., take orders, selling techniques, serve properly)
- ▶ Identify food allergen characteristics
- ▶ Identify and demonstrate proper use of measuring devices
- ▶ Identify large and small kitchen equipment
- ▶ Demonstrate proper use and care of large and small equipment



# MUSIC

## WHAT IS IT?

*For students passionate about music, the Music Academy provides in-depth training across various areas of the music industry.*

Under the guidance of experienced instructors, students will have the opportunity to explore and develop their musical talents in a supportive and dynamic environment. This academy not only equips students with technical skills but also nurtures their creativity and passion, setting them on a path to success in the world of music.

## KEY FEATURES

- ▶ **Performance Opportunities:** Students have numerous opportunities to showcase their musical talents and gain valuable performance experience through concerts, recitals, and community events.
- ▶ **Experienced Faculty:** WVSDB faculty consists of experienced music educators and industry professionals who are dedicated to mentoring and guiding students on their musical journey.
- ▶ **Individualized Instruction:** The academy provides individualized instruction tailored to each student's skill level, interests, and career goals, allowing for personalized growth and development.



# BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

## WHAT IS IT?

*The Business Enterprise program is designed to give students an opportunity to operate a hands-on business inside and outside of a classroom.*

Students will learn to be proficient in leveraging Microsoft Office in the workplace to streamline marketing tasks and enhance productivity. They will create impactful presentations on PowerPoint, design compelling Microsoft Word documents, and manage business data on Microsoft Excel. Overall communication skills will improve by utilizing Outlook for effective communication and scheduling meetings/appointments.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- ▶ Apply planning/time management principles to accomplish workplace objectives (e.g., schedule meetings, maintain supplies, prioritize activities)

## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ▶ Define and differentiate among various types of businesses (e.g., corporation, limited liability, partnership)
- ▶ Use planning tools to guide and manage an organization's business activities.
- ▶ Apply marketing techniques to foster business growth

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

- ▶ Use social media and mobile technology appropriately
- ▶ Learning to navigate JAWS on a laptop

## LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK

- ▶ Exhibit leadership practices to improve production and quality of the working environment
- ▶ Work effectively in a team environment to accomplish company goals and improve the quality of the working environment

# TAKE THE NEXT STEP



Career and Technical Education (CTE) is vital for preparing students for both college and their future careers by equipping them with practical skills and real-world experiences. Our program is specially designed to support Visually Impaired (VI) and Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) students, ensuring they receive the customized instruction and resources they need to succeed. Our dedicated partners bolstered this effort: the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), Eastern Community and Technical College, Hampshire County Development Authority, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE), and local Romney businesses. Together, we are committed to empowering our students to reach their highest potential and secure rewarding, fulfilling careers.

## OUR PARTNERS







W. Clayton Burch  
Superintendent